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DD/S&T-2423-63

13 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer, DD/S&T

SUBJECT: PERT Orientation Course

1. I attended a one-day orientation course on PERT at Bolling Field and found it interesting and of present and future value in that it provided an understanding of a new management technique that is widely used in the Department of Defense and NASA. Some portions of it might have application to the DD/S&T, and certainly we will run across its terminologies and practices in our dealings with NASA and DoD.

2. PERT is a system that was formulated for the Navy by Booz, Allen, and Hamilton under contract and has grown rapidly into the other Services and ASD. It is said to have shortened the development time of the Polaris system by about 2 years and to have resulted in many economies. (Additional sales literature and guides are attached.)

3. The PERT System is merely an amplification of Milestones and Gantt charts to detail the various steps required and times needed for them and their interdependence (interface) with other operations. It can become very complex, and PERT programming is now a career field in the Services. It is particularly adaptable to "one-shot" operations such as Polaris or NASA space ventures and has no application for production-line operations.

4. McNamara has directed that it be universally adopted for all applicable contracting in the Department of Defense, and NASA uses it extensively. This has led to a semi-voluntary adoption of the system in most of the large defense industries and some are finding it worthwhile to "PERT" their regular operations in one form or another. DoD now calls for proposals solicited or non-solicited to include the PERT program.

5. The day was well spent for me, and I would recommend the course for anyone who will be dealing with contractors who are primarily engaged in defense industries. With the current emphasis on economy and specific requests for means by which we monitor program and expenditures, a system like PERT provides a hard and understandable answer.

Chief, Plans and Programs
Deputy Director
(Science and Technology)

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Attachments-3

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ORIGINAL DOCUMENT MISSING PAGE(S):

Attachment